

MARVEL

LEGACY

CAGED!

170



WALKER  
SANNA  
MENYZ

# LUKE CAGE

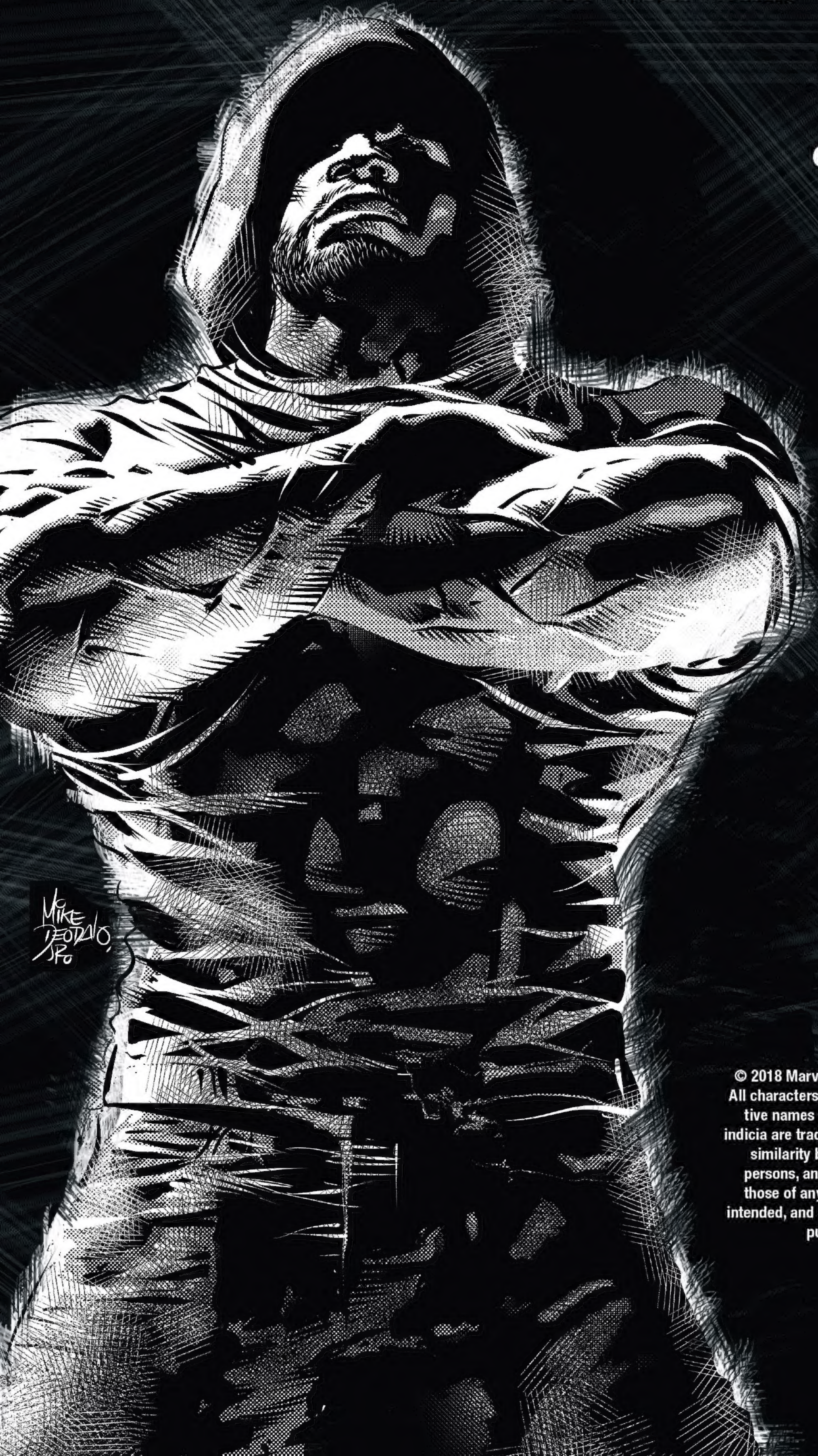


MARVEL  
AGENTS OF  
S.H.I.E.L.D.  
LANDMARK 100TH EPISODE  
FRIDAY, MARCH 9  
9|8c abc



While imprisoned for a crime he did not commit, **Luke Cage** was subjected to medical experiments that gave him superhuman strength and bulletproof skin. Once free, he used his abilities to become a Hero for Hire, protecting people who had nowhere else to turn. His mission has taken him to Wakanda, the Savage Land, even Avengers Mansion, but Luke has never forgotten where he came from.

**PREVIOUSLY:** Luke Cage has been away from home for far too long. Finally back in New York, now he's taking the time to reconnect with what matters most.



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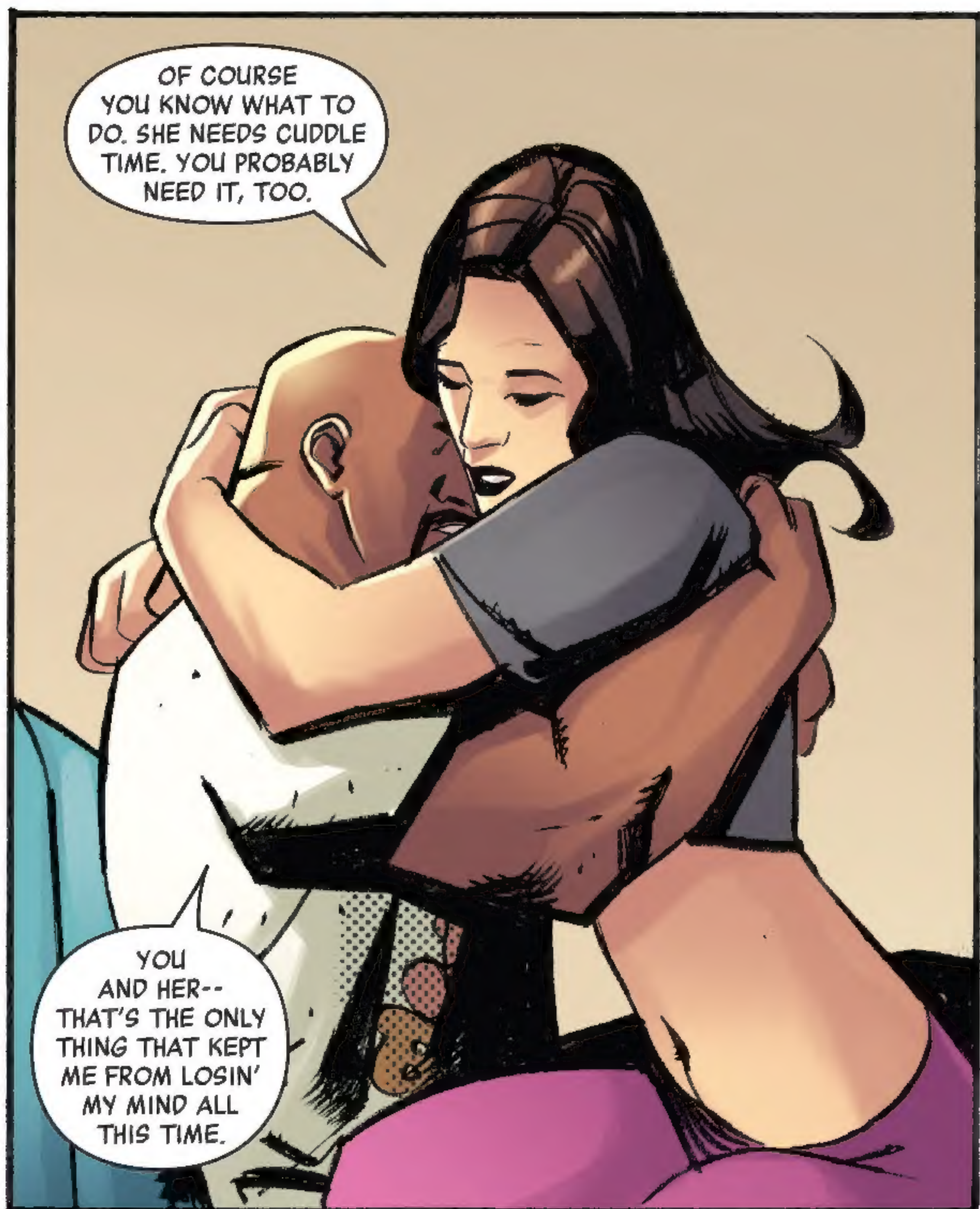
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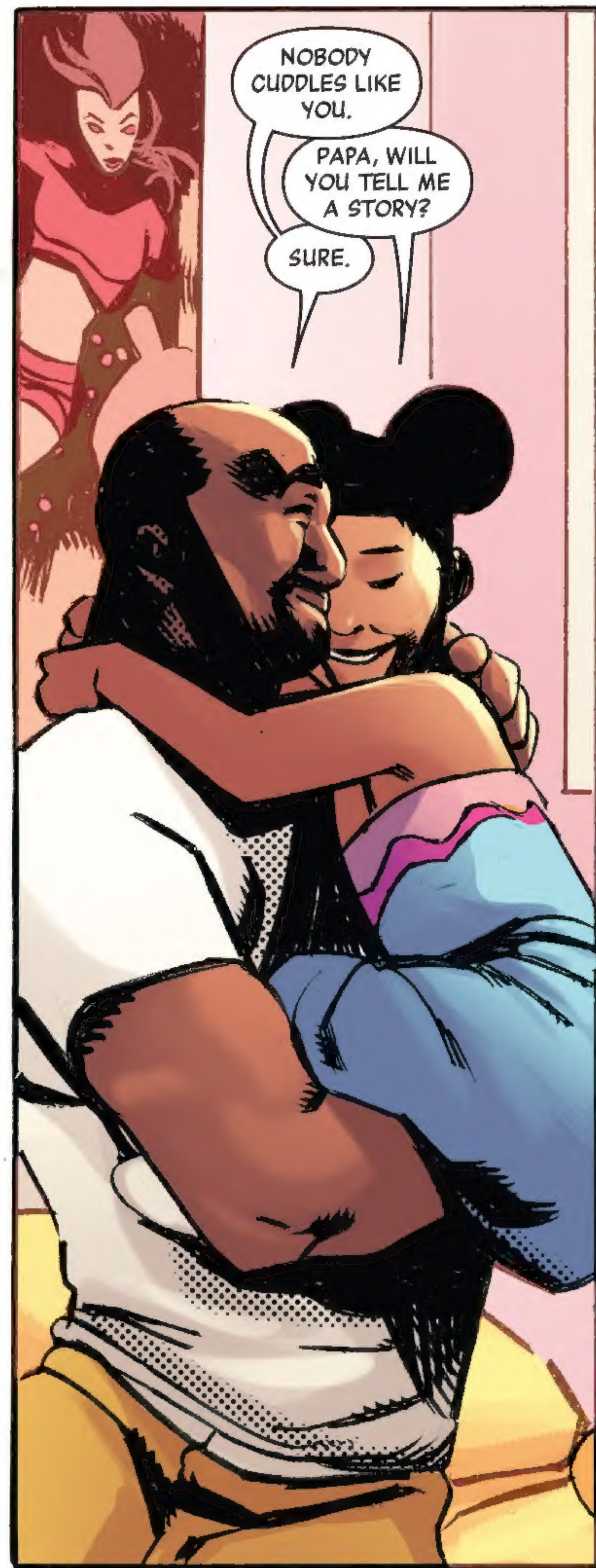
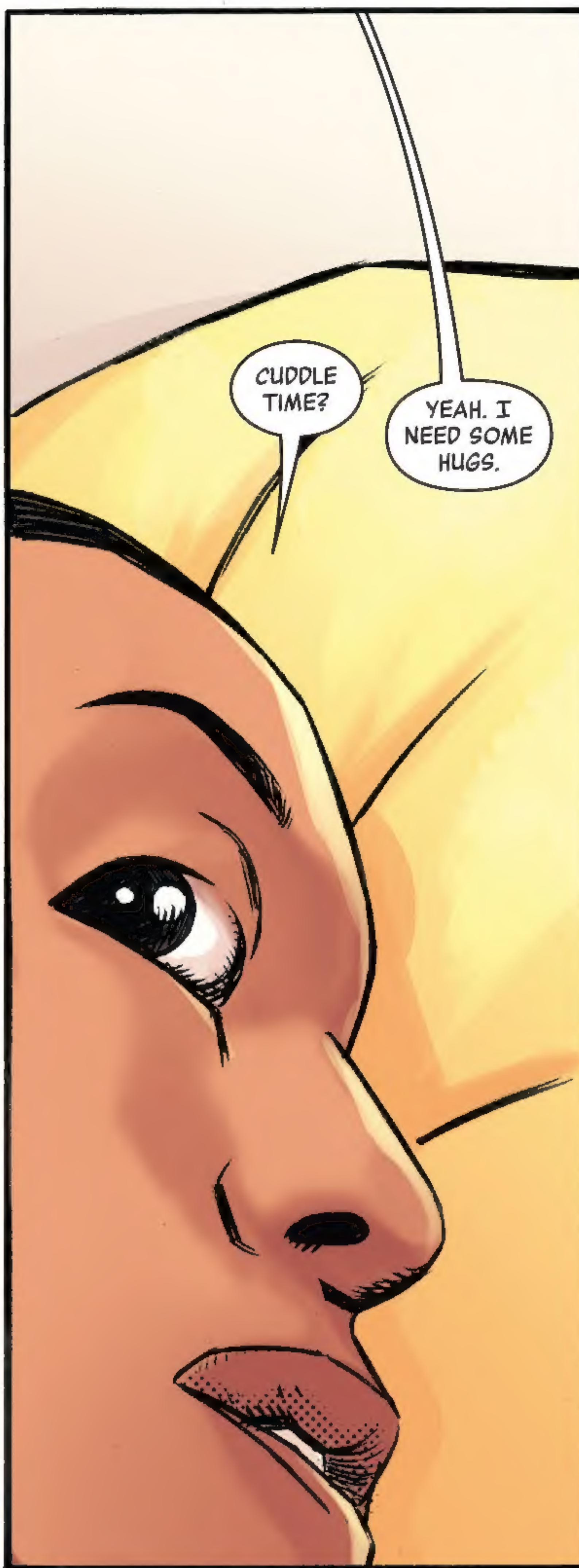
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Executive Producer

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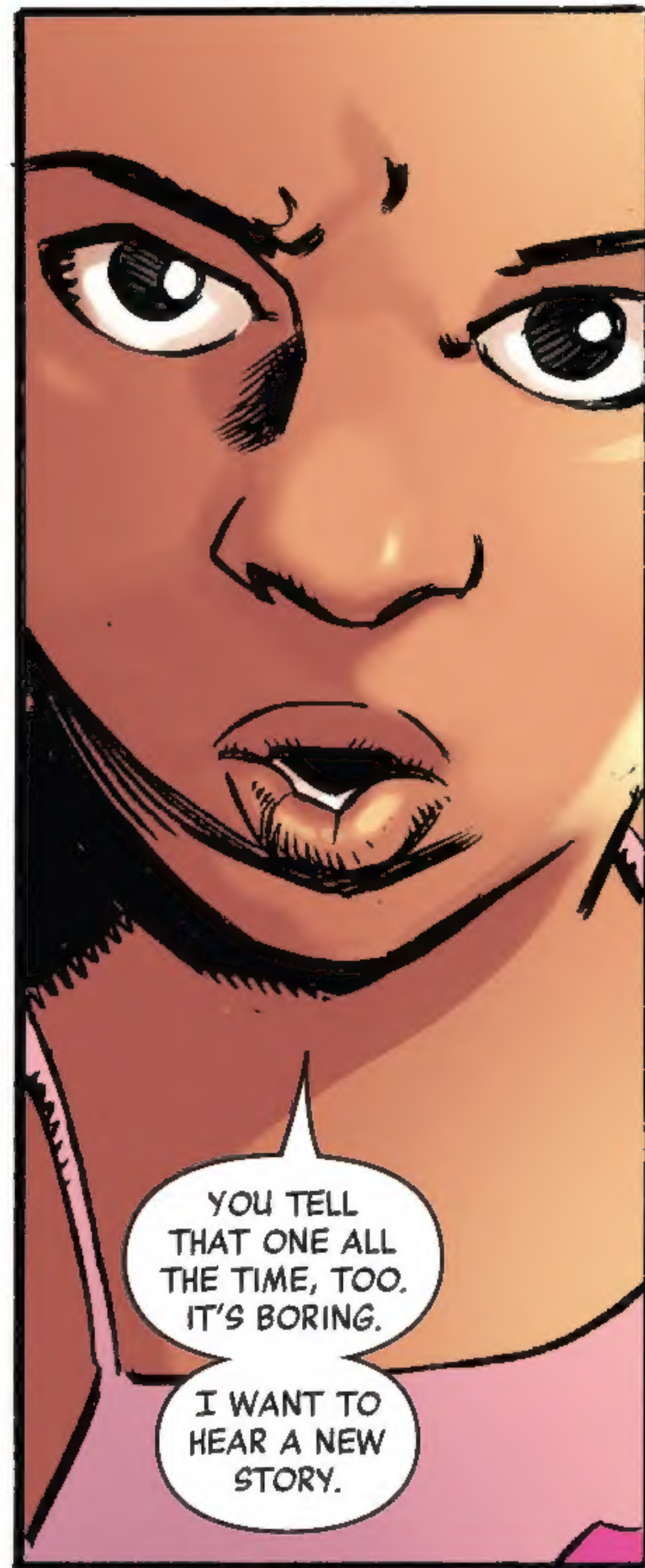
I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT THE TIME I BEAT UP DR. DOOM BECAUSE HE OWED ME MONEY.



NOT THAT STORY. YOU TELL THAT ONE ALL THE TIME.



UM... OKAY...  
I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT HOW ME AND YOUR UNCLE DANNY BECAME THE BEST SUPER HERO TEAM IN THE WORLD.



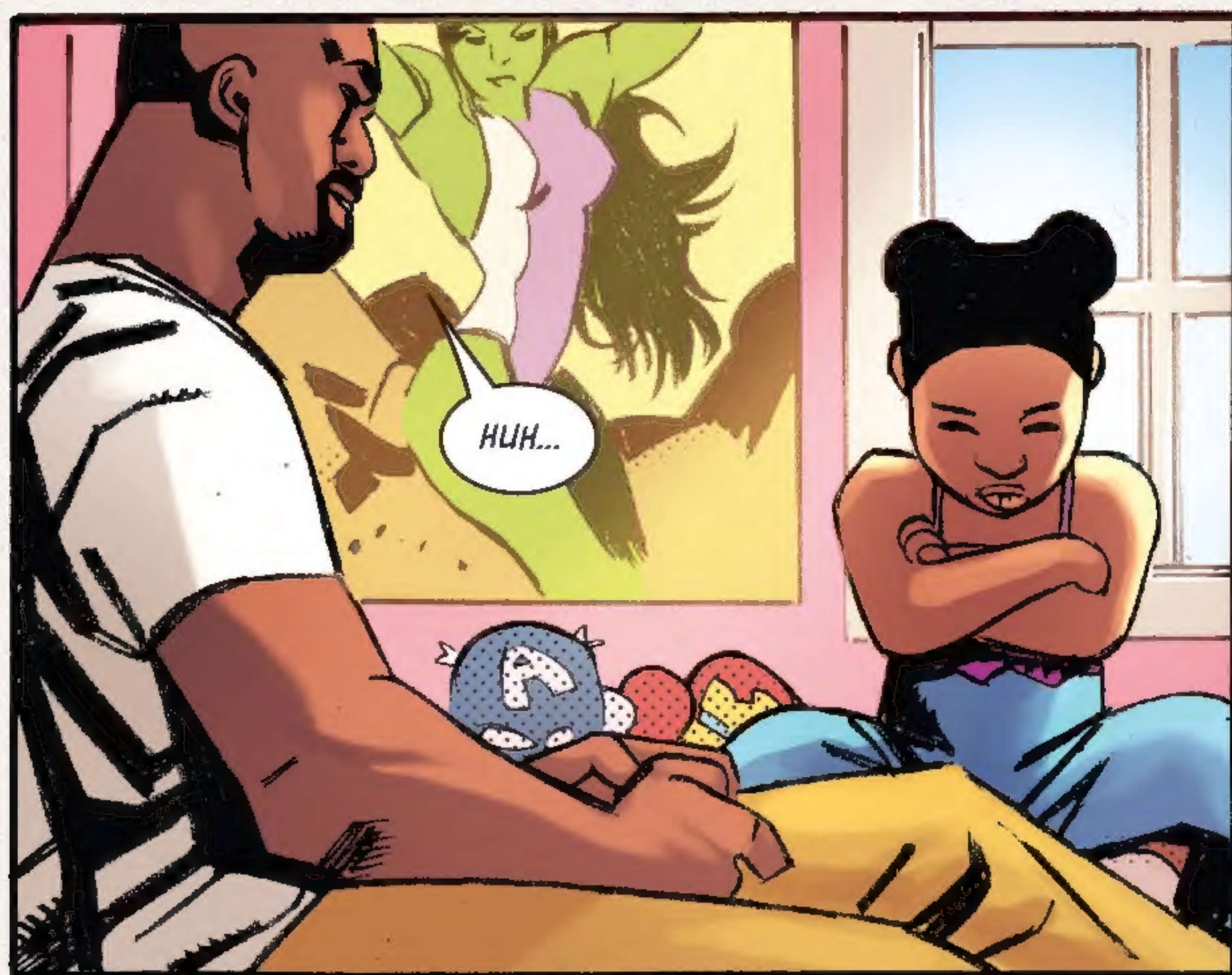
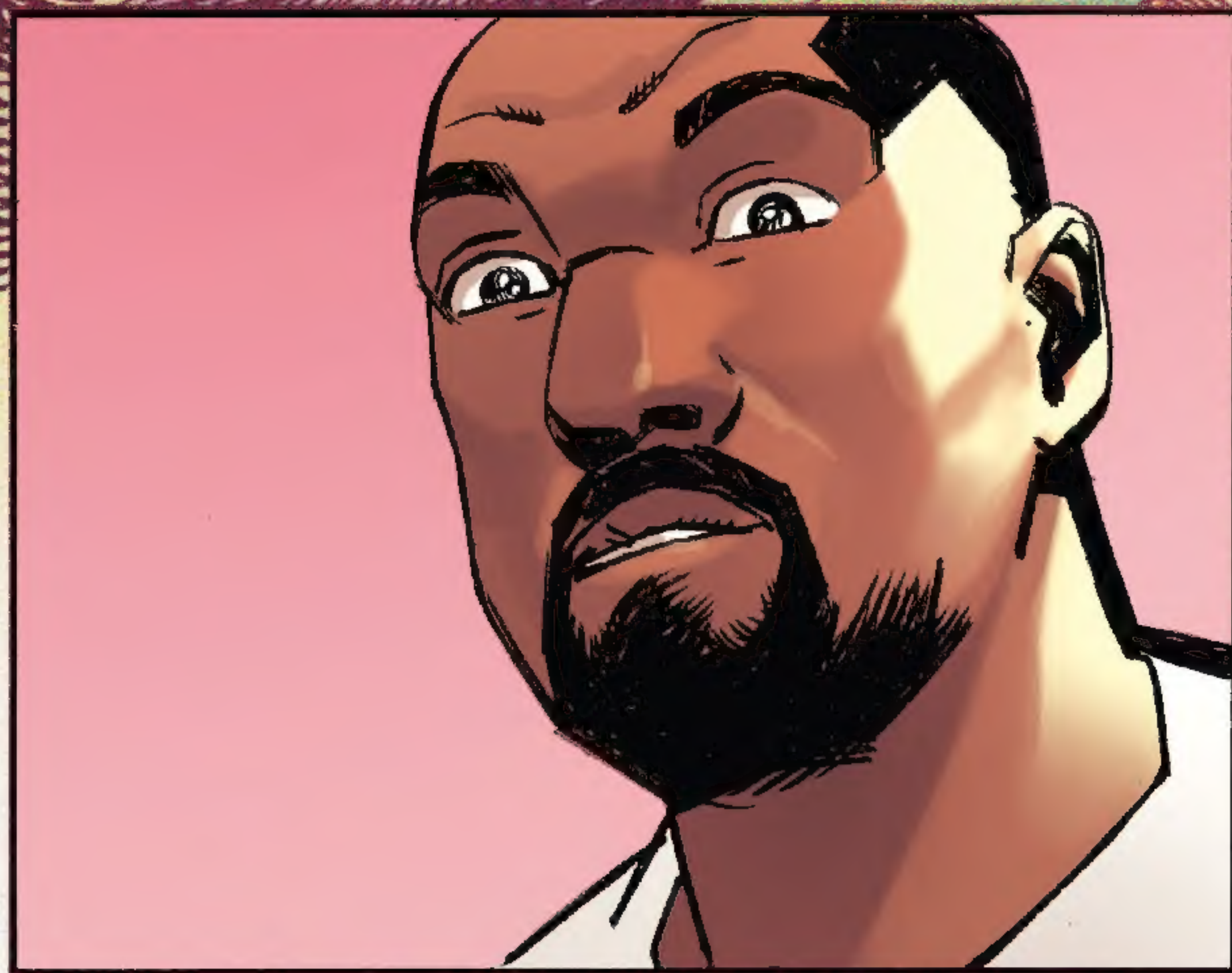
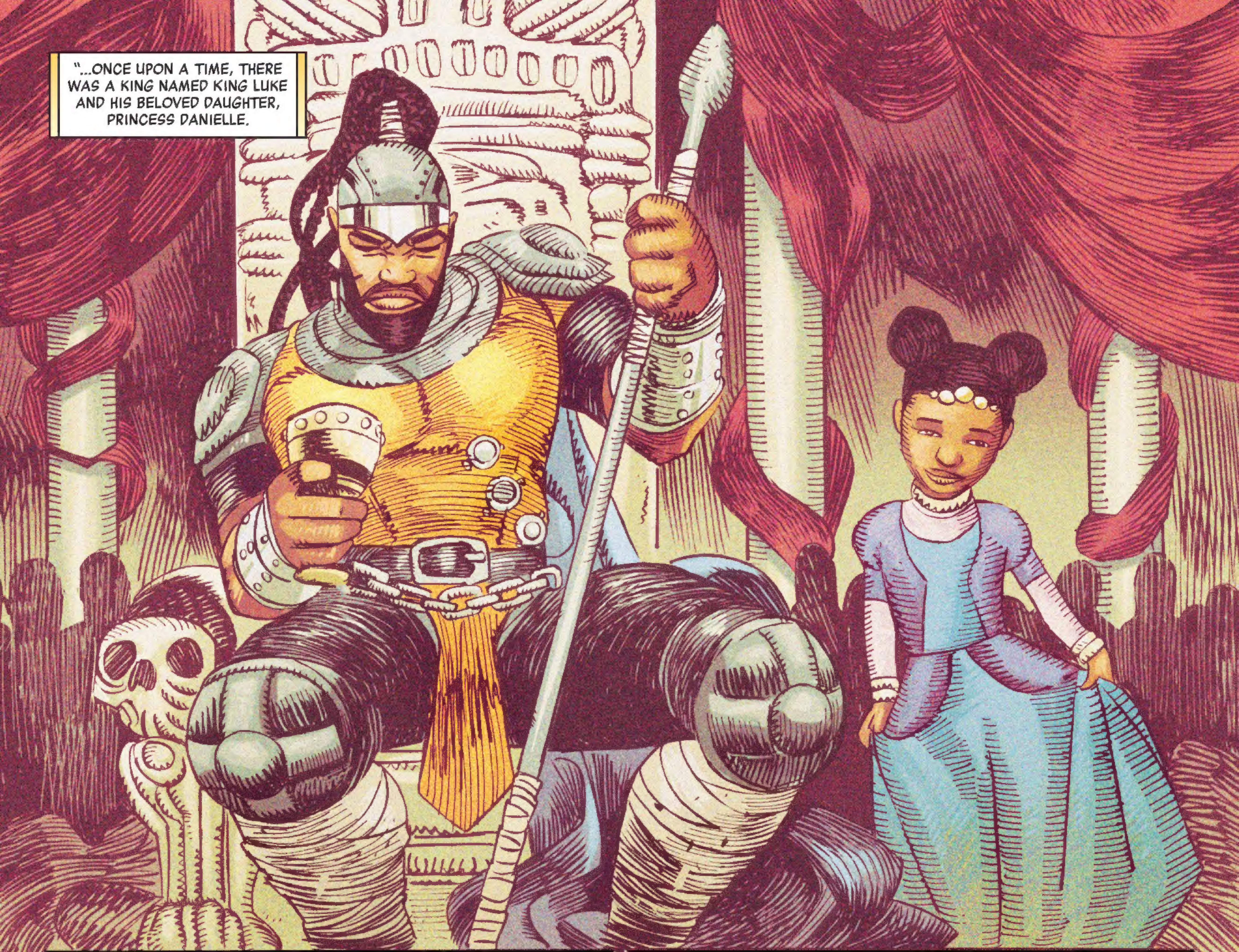
YOU TELL THAT ONE ALL THE TIME, TOO. IT'S BORING.  
I WANT TO HEAR A NEW STORY.



A NEW STORY?  
YEAH!  
MAKE IT UP FROM YOUR HEAD!  
OKAY...



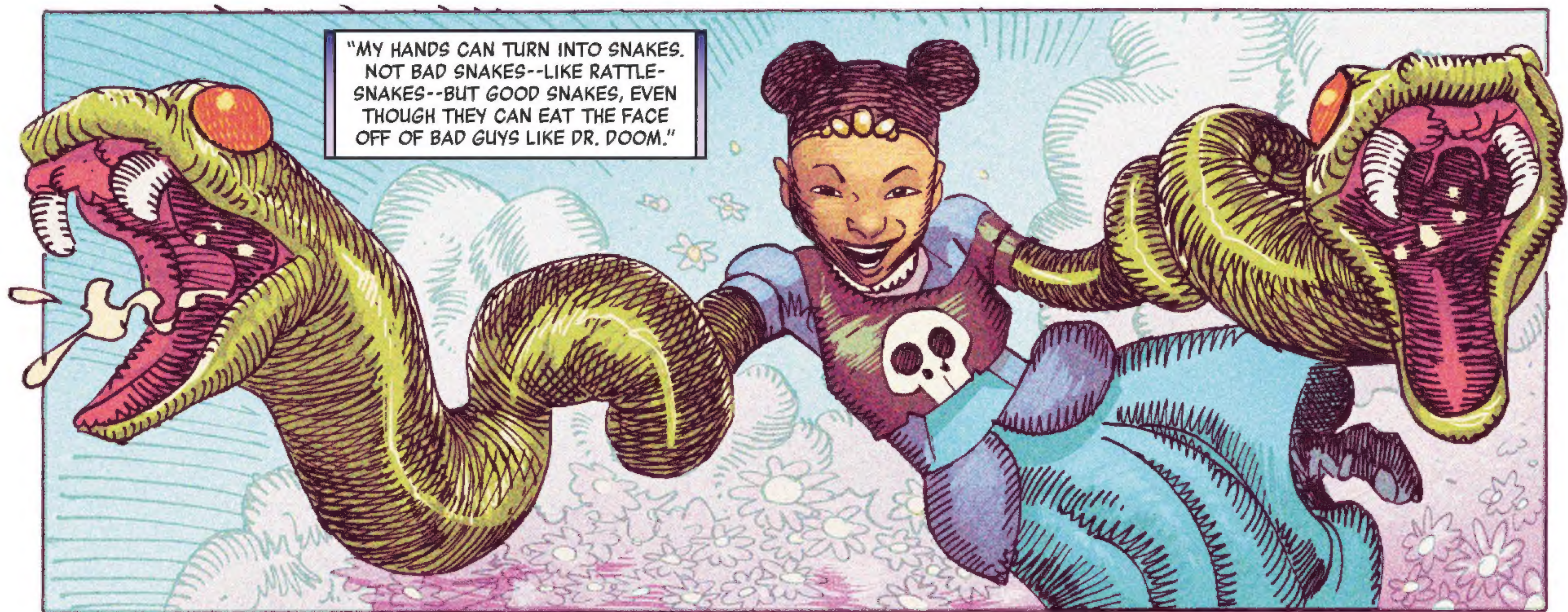
"...ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE WAS A KING NAMED KING LUKE AND HIS BELOVED DAUGHTER, PRINCESS DANIELLE.









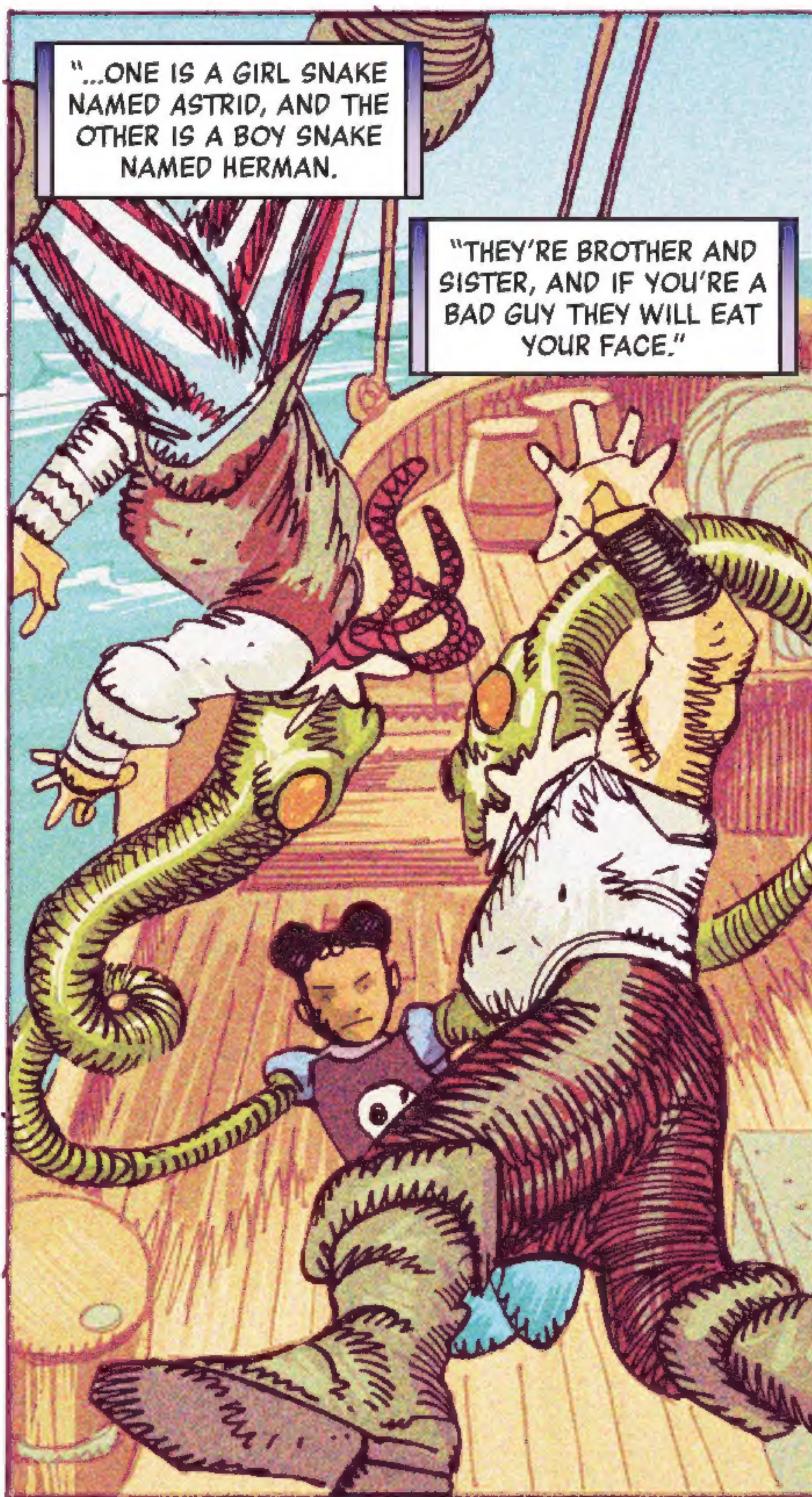


"MY HANDS CAN TURN INTO SNAKES. NOT BAD SNAKES--LIKE RATTLE-SNAKES--BUT GOOD SNAKES, EVEN THOUGH THEY CAN EAT THE FACE OFF OF BAD GUYS LIKE DR. DOOM."



"HANDS THAT TURN INTO SNAKES?"

"YEAH. AND THE SNAKES HAVE NAMES..."



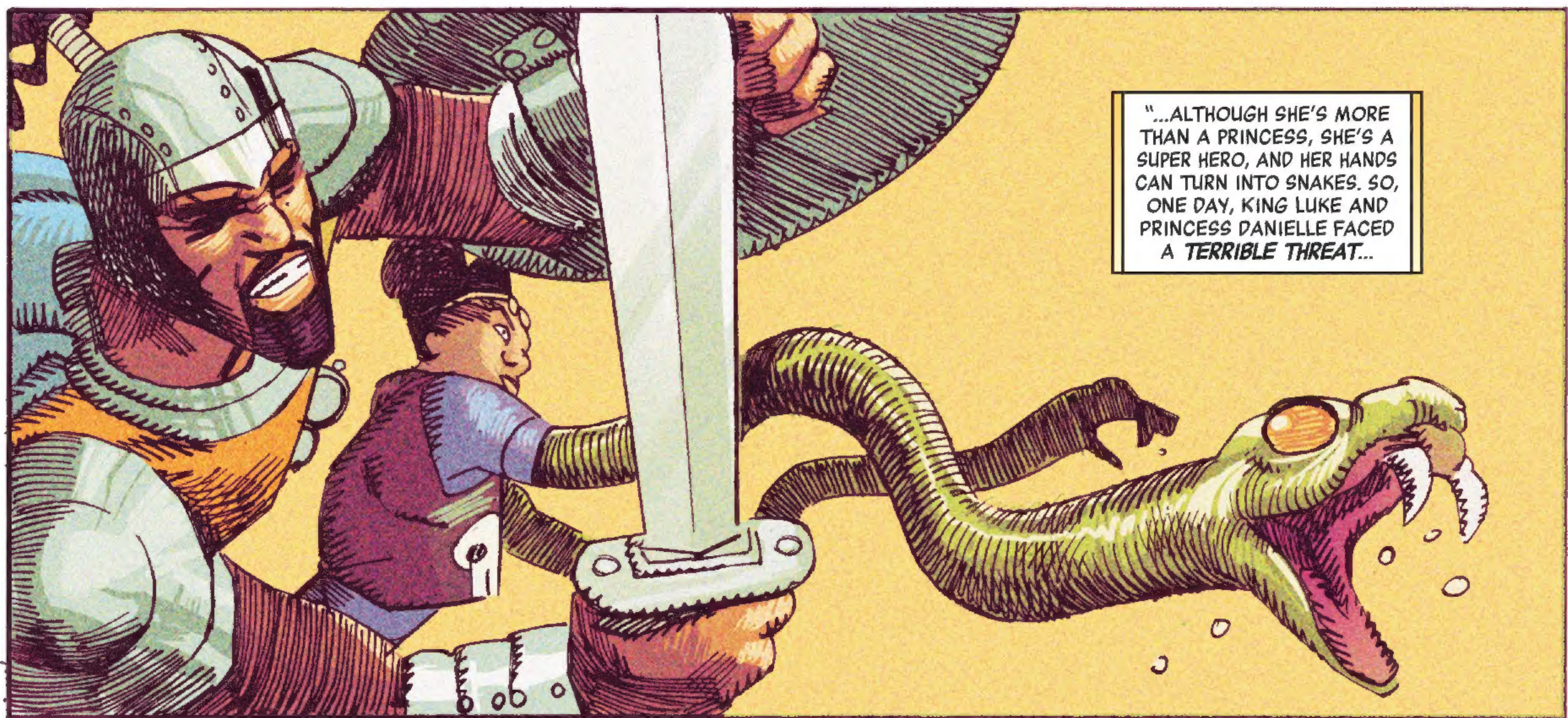
"...ONE IS A GIRL SNAKE NAMED ASTRID, AND THE OTHER IS A BOY SNAKE NAMED HERMAN."

"THEY'RE BROTHER AND SISTER, AND IF YOU'RE A BAD GUY THEY WILL EAT YOUR FACE."



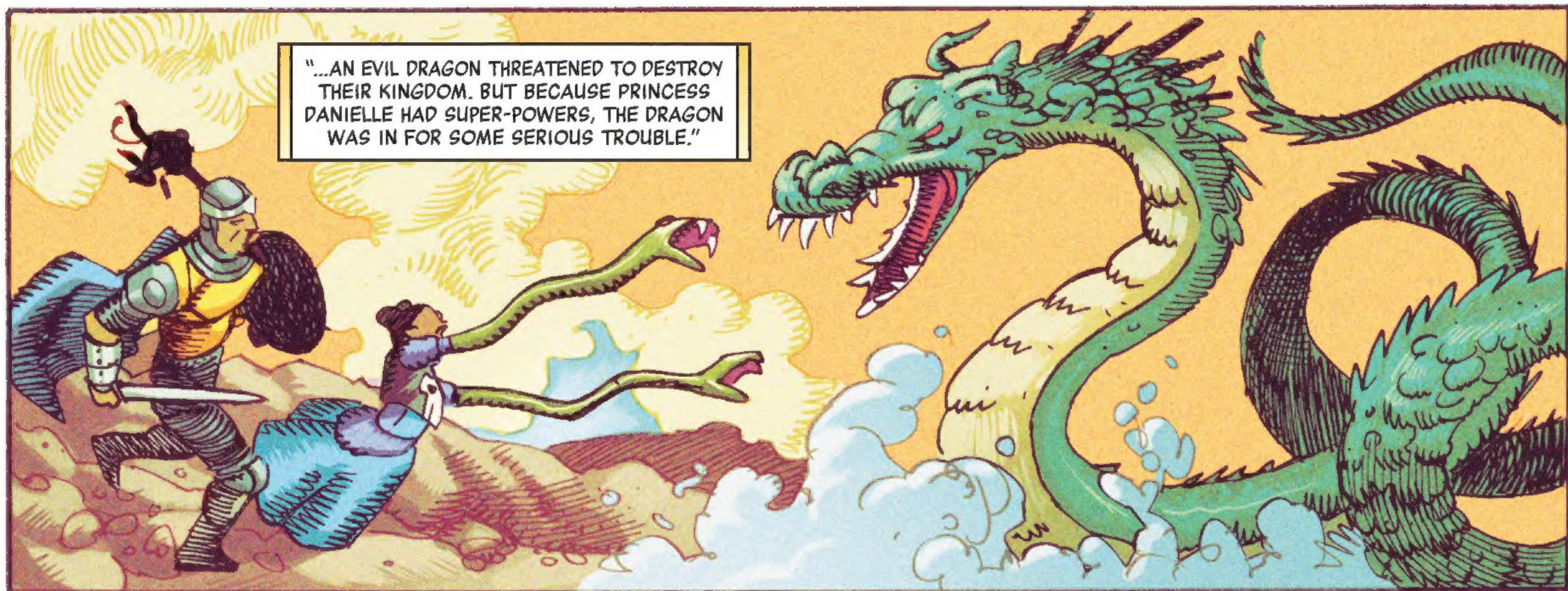
THAT WORKS FOR ME--HANDS THAT TURN INTO SNAKES.

OKAY, SO WE HAVE KING LUKE AND PRINCESS DANIELLE...



"...ALTHOUGH SHE'S MORE THAN A PRINCESS, SHE'S A SUPER HERO, AND HER HANDS CAN TURN INTO SNAKES. SO, ONE DAY, KING LUKE AND PRINCESS DANIELLE FACED A **TERRIBLE THREAT**..."





"...AN EVIL DRAGON THREATENED TO DESTROY THEIR KINGDOM. BUT BECAUSE PRINCESS DANIELLE HAD SUPER-POWERS, THE DRAGON WAS IN FOR SOME SERIOUS TROUBLE."



PAPA?

YEAH, SWEETIE--WHAT IS IT?



UM...I LIKE DRAGONS. UNCLE DANNY HAS A PET DRAGON AND HE'S NICE TO ME AND I WOULDN'T WANT TO BEAT HIM UP BECAUSE THAT WOULD BE MEAN.



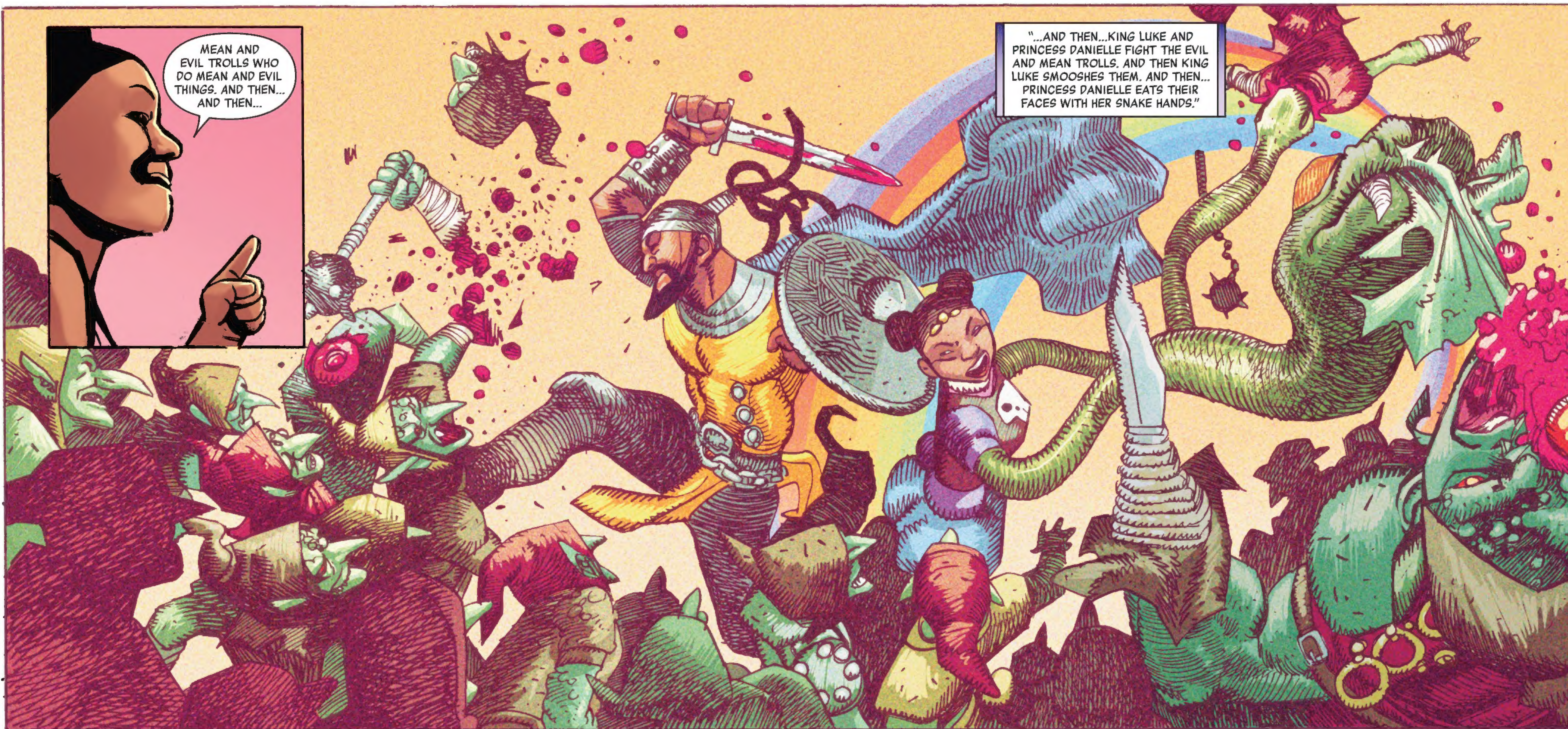
NO PROBLEM. I CAN THINK OF ANOTHER MONSTER THEY CAN FIGHT.

I KNOW!



"THEY COULD FIGHT TROLLS!"





MEAN AND EVIL TROLLS WHO DO MEAN AND EVIL THINGS. AND THEN... AND THEN...

"...AND THEN...KING LUKE AND PRINCESS DANIELLE FIGHT THE EVIL AND MEAN TROLLS. AND THEN KING LUKE SMOOSHES THEM. AND THEN... PRINCESS DANIELLE EATS THEIR FACES WITH HER SNAKE HANDS."



THE SNAKES EAT THE FACES OF THE TROLLS?

YES. I ALREADY TOLD YOU THAT.

BUT THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING...



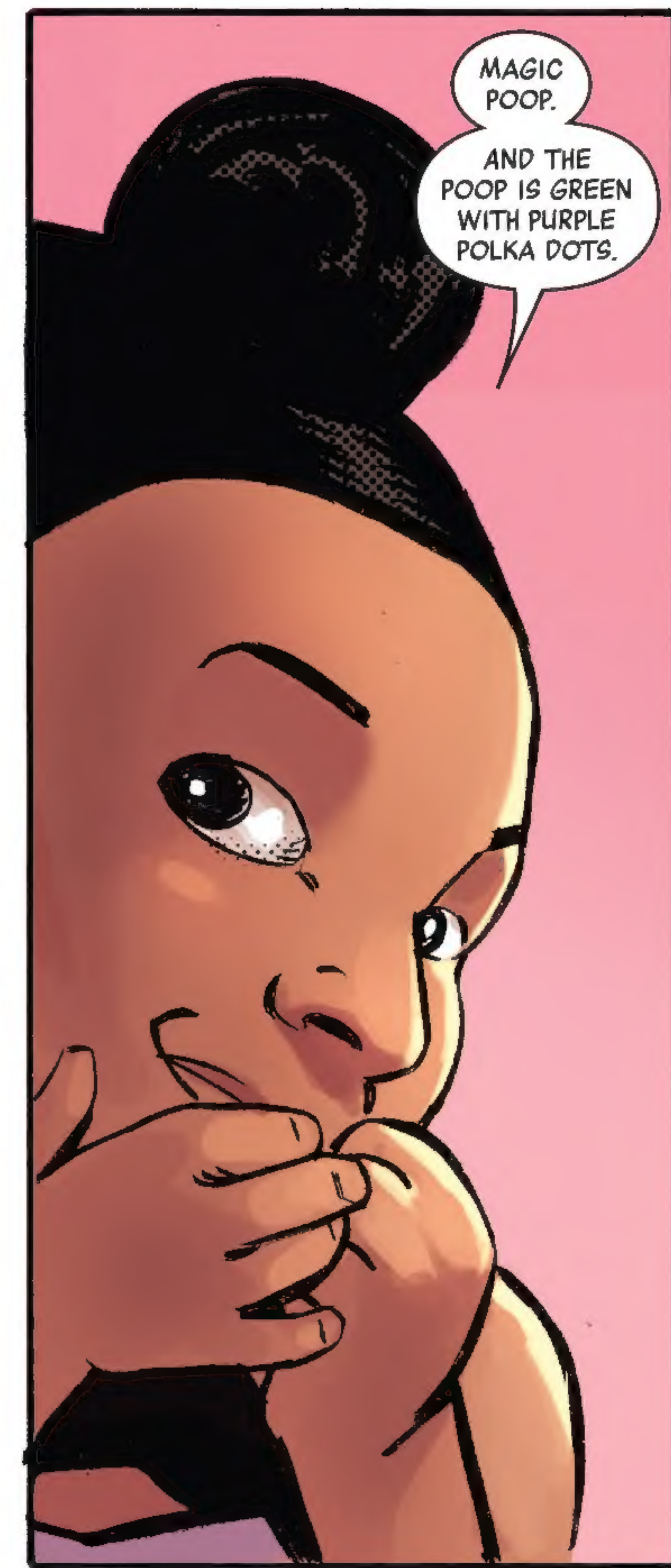
"...THE TROLLS HAVE A LEADER AND HIS NAME IS HATE-FACE AND HE HATES EVERYTHING, WHICH MAKES HIM UGLY BECAUSE HATE IS UGLY. BUT THAT'S NOT ALL.



"HATE-FACE HAS PET BIRDS, BUT THEY ARE MONSTER BIRDS CALLED YUCK-BIRDS AND THE YUCK-BIRDS POOP ON EVERYTHING."

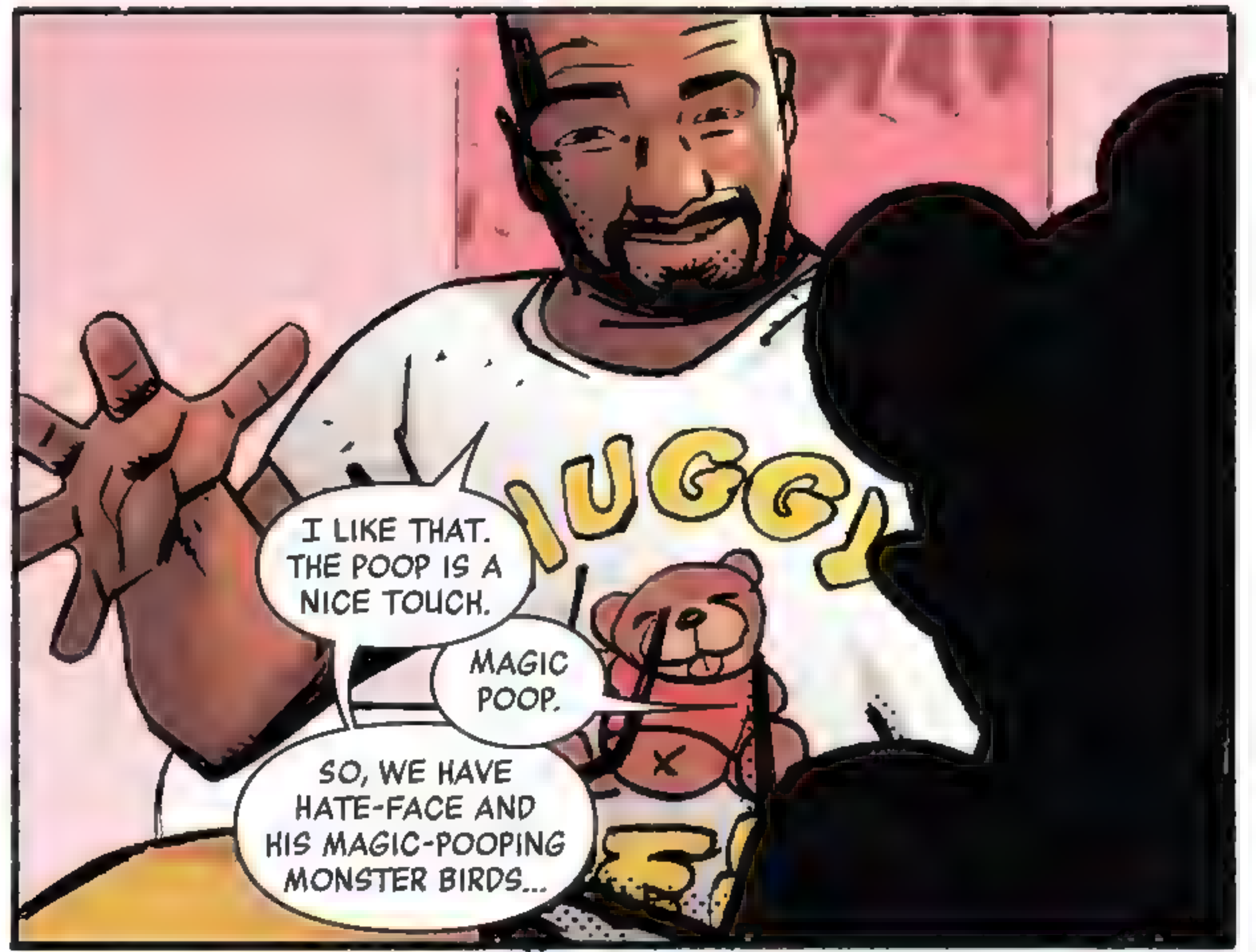


HATE-FACE?  
MONSTER BIRDS THAT POOP ON EVERYTHING?



MAGIC POOP.  
AND THE POOP IS GREEN WITH PURPLE POLKA DOTS.







"...HATE-FACE AND  
HIS EVIL TROLLS  
ATTACKED KING  
LUKE, AND THEN..."



"...HATE-FACE USED HIS MAGIC  
TO MAKE KING LUKE FROZENED  
IN PLACE AND HE COULDN'T  
MOVE, COULDN'T MOVE AT ALL..."



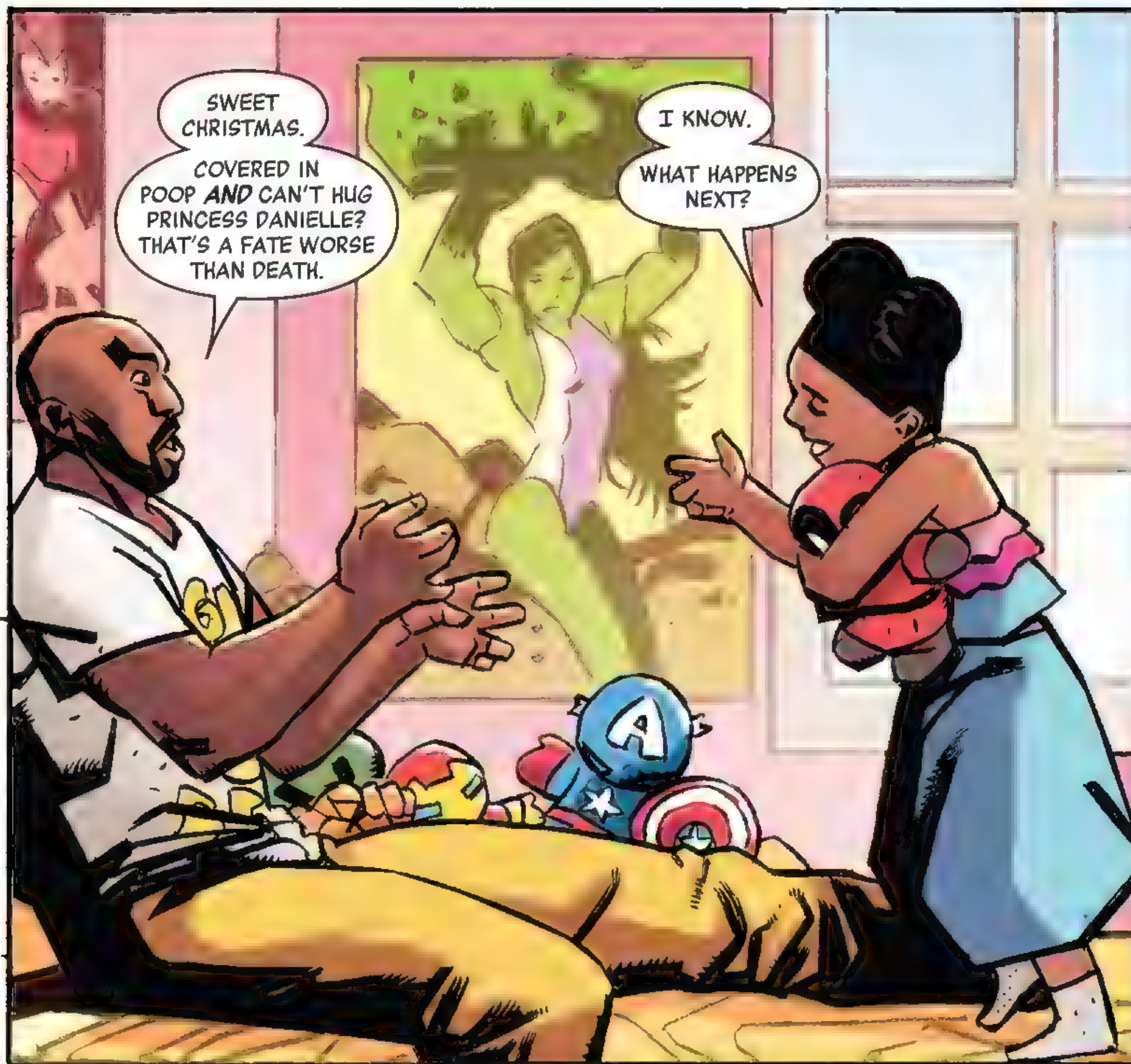
"...WHICH MEANT HE COULDN'T  
HUG PRINCESS DANIELLE--  
AND THEN THE YUCK-BIRDS WERE  
FLYING ALL AROUND HIM..."



"...AND THEN THE YUCK-BIRDS POOPED ON  
HIM AND THEN HE WAS SAD BECAUSE HE  
WAS FROZENED AND COVERED IN POOP  
AND COULDN'T HUG PRINCESS DANIELLE."







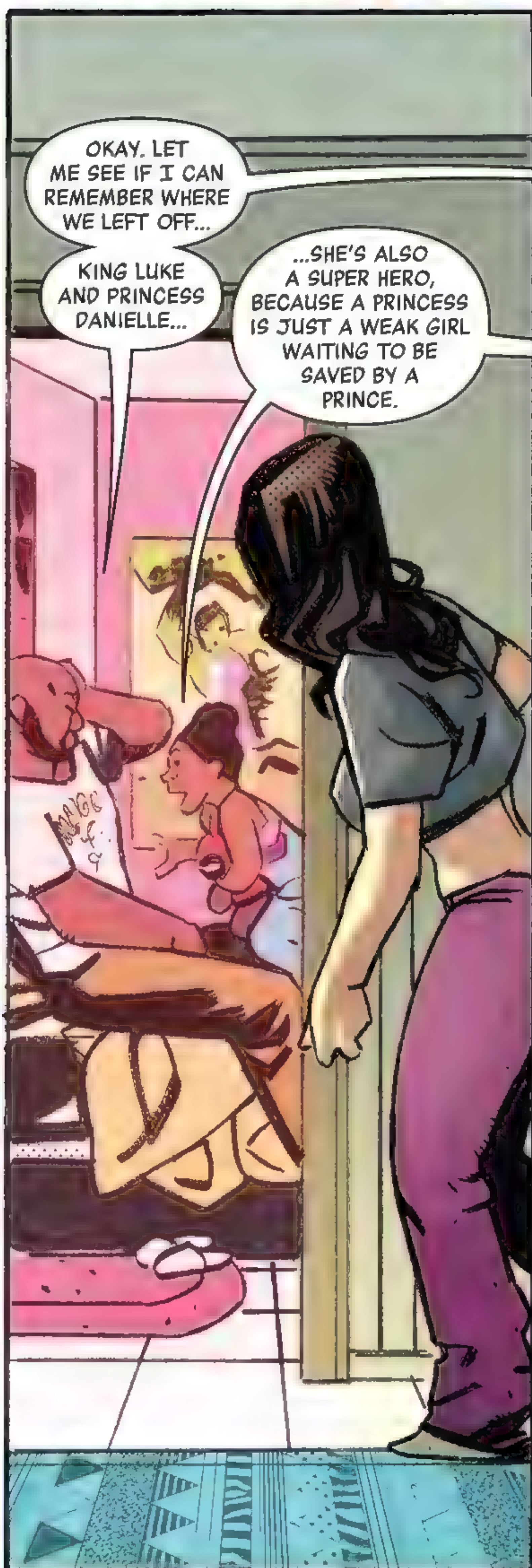
SWEET CHRISTMAS.  
COVERED IN POOP AND CAN'T HUG PRINCESS DANIELLE? THAT'S A FATE WORSE THAN DEATH.

I KNOW.  
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?



WHAT'RE YOU ASKING ME FOR?

BECAUSE YOU'RE THE ONE TELLING THE STORY.



OKAY. LET ME SEE IF I CAN REMEMBER WHERE WE LEFT OFF...

KING LUKE AND PRINCESS DANIELLE...

...SHE'S ALSO A SUPER HERO, BECAUSE A PRINCESS IS JUST A WEAK GIRL WAITING TO BE SAVED BY A PRINCE.



OH, PRINCESS DANIELLE IS THE GREATEST SUPER HERO OF ALL TIME.

IS SHE A BAD-ASS?

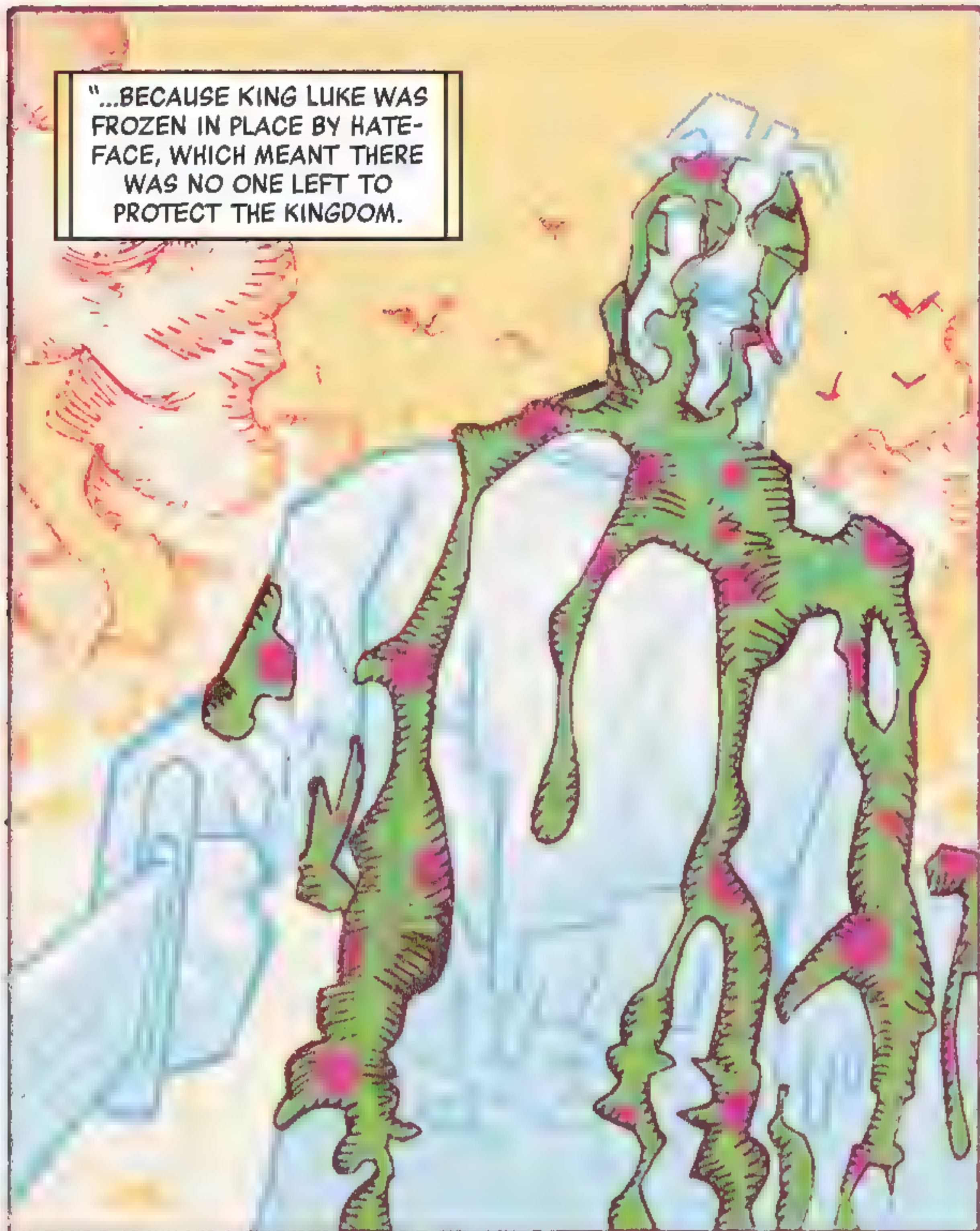


DID MOMMY TEACH YOU THAT WORD?

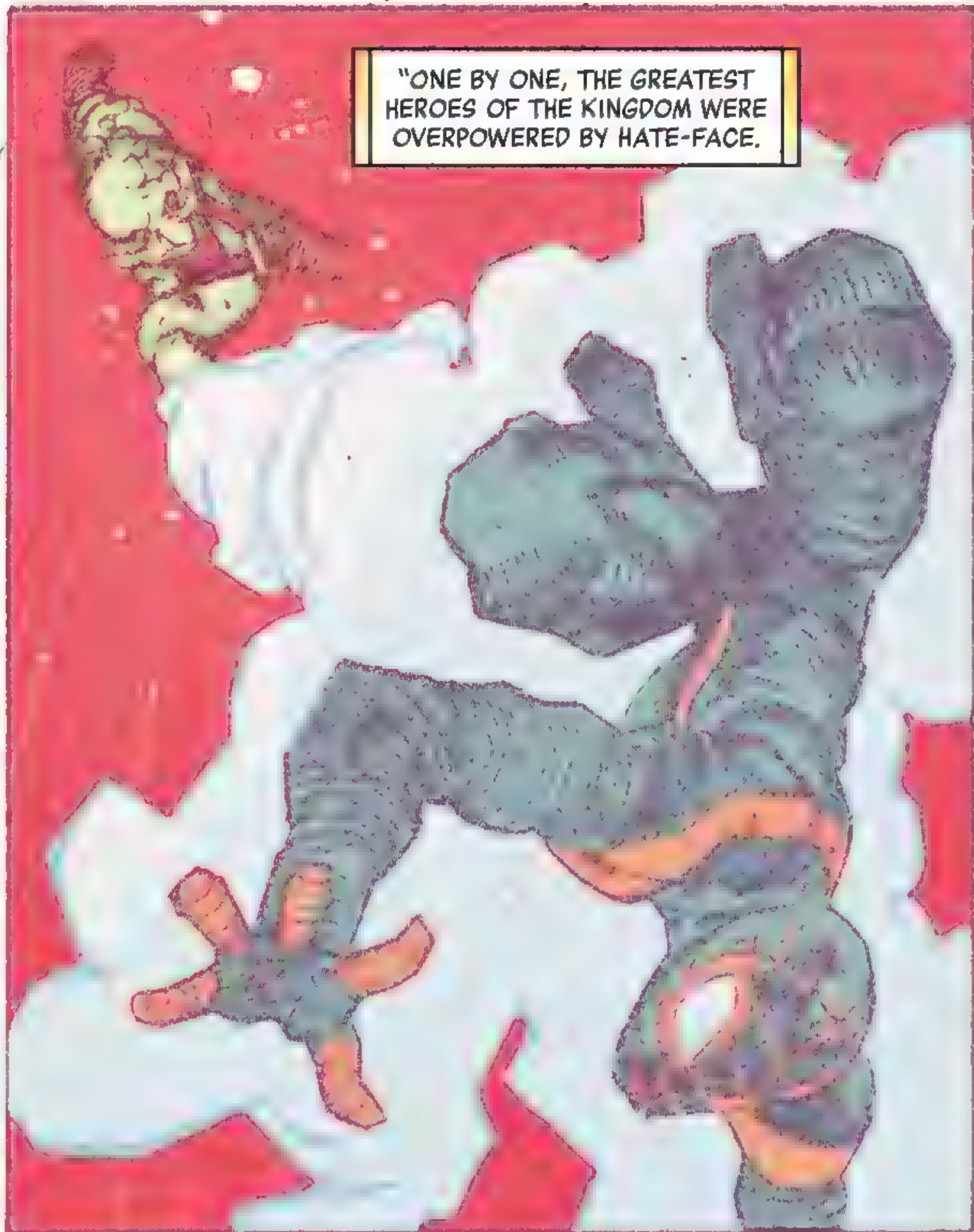
YEAH.

WELL... YEAH, PRINCESS DANIELLE IS A BAD-ASS. AND THAT'S IMPORTANT...





"...BECAUSE KING LUKE WAS FROZEN IN PLACE BY HATE-FACE, WHICH MEANT THERE WAS NO ONE LEFT TO PROTECT THE KINGDOM.



"ONE BY ONE, THE GREATEST HEROES OF THE KINGDOM WERE OVERPOWERED BY HATE-FACE.



"EVERYONE WHO TRIED TO STOP HATE-FACE FELL VICTIM TO HIS SINISTER PLAN.



"WITH ALL THE HEROES FROZEN IN PLACE, NOTHING COULD STOP HATE-FACE."

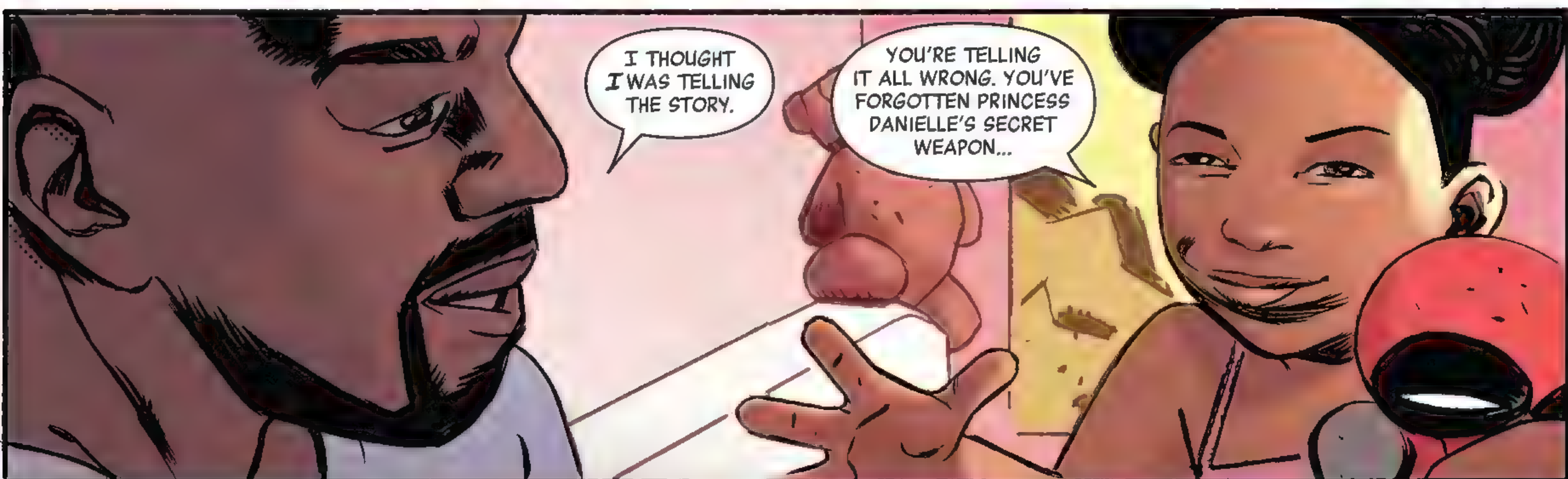
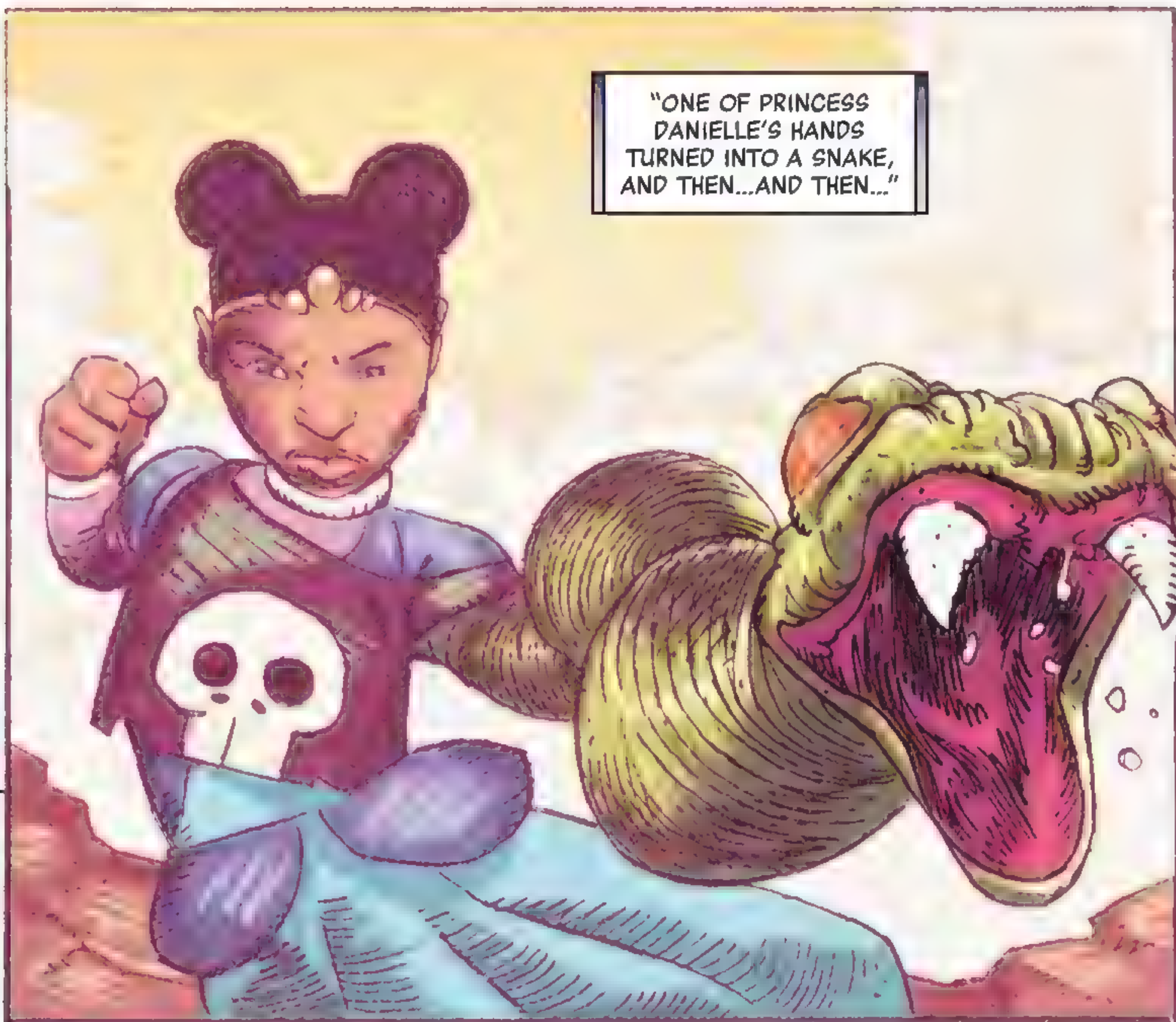


IT LOOKED LIKE ALL HOPE WAS LOST.

ALL HOPE?

ALL OF IT-- EVEN THE EMERGENCY SUPPLY OF HOPE THAT NICK FURY KEPT HIDDEN IN ONE OF HIS SECRET BUNKERS.









TIGER-GATOR?

SHE'S PART  
TIGER AND PART  
ALLIGATOR...AND HER  
NAME IS JESSICA...AND  
SHE CAN FLY...BUT NOT  
REALLY, MORE LIKE  
SHE CAN JUMP  
REALLY FAR.



"PRINCESS DANIELLE RODE  
JESSICA THE TIGER-GATOR,  
AND THEN...AND THEN...THEY  
ATTACKED THE TROLLS THAT  
WORKED FOR HATE-FACE.



"AND THEN...HER HANDS TURNED TO  
SNAKES AND STARTED EATING THE  
FACES OF THE TROLLS, AND THEN  
JESSICA THE TIGER-GATOR ATE THE  
YUCK-BIRDS AND THEIR POOP, BECAUSE  
THAT'S TIGER-GATOR'S FAVORITE FOOD.



TIGER-GATOR'S  
FAVORITE FOOD IS  
YUCK-BIRDS AND  
THEIR POOP?

MAGIC  
POOP.



AND  
THEN...GUESS  
WHAT.







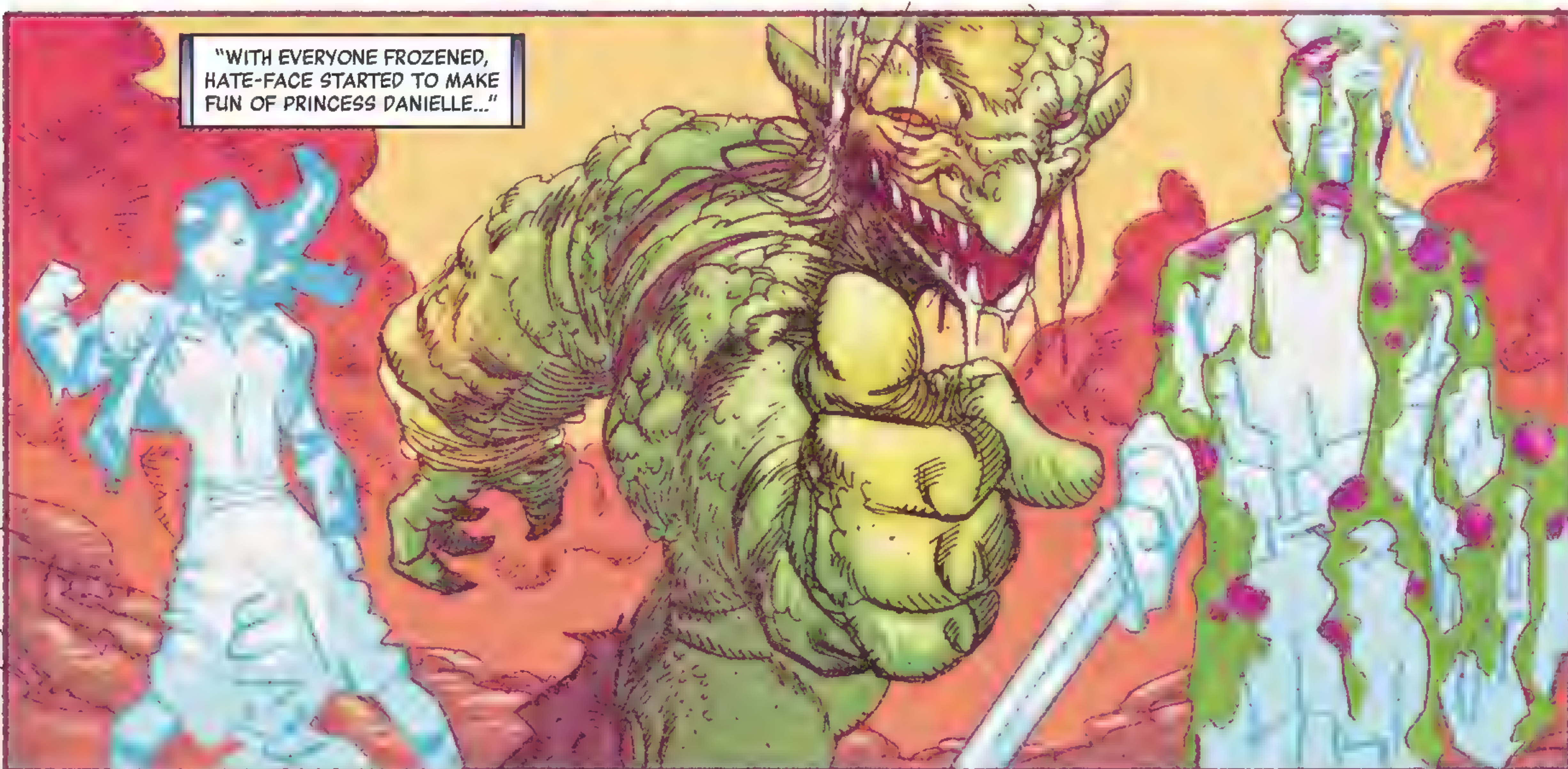


IF IT MAKES YOU SAD, WE CAN TELL ANOTHER STORY.

NO. THIS IS IMPORTANT.



"AND THEN...HATE-FACE FROZED QUEEN JESSICA JUST LIKE HE FROZED EVERYONE ELSE.



"WITH EVERYONE FROZEN, HATE-FACE STARTED TO MAKE FUN OF PRINCESS DANIELLE..."



...BECAUSE PRINCESS DANIELLE WAS ALL ALONE AND LONELY, AND HATE-FACE THOUGHT THAT WAS FUNNY.

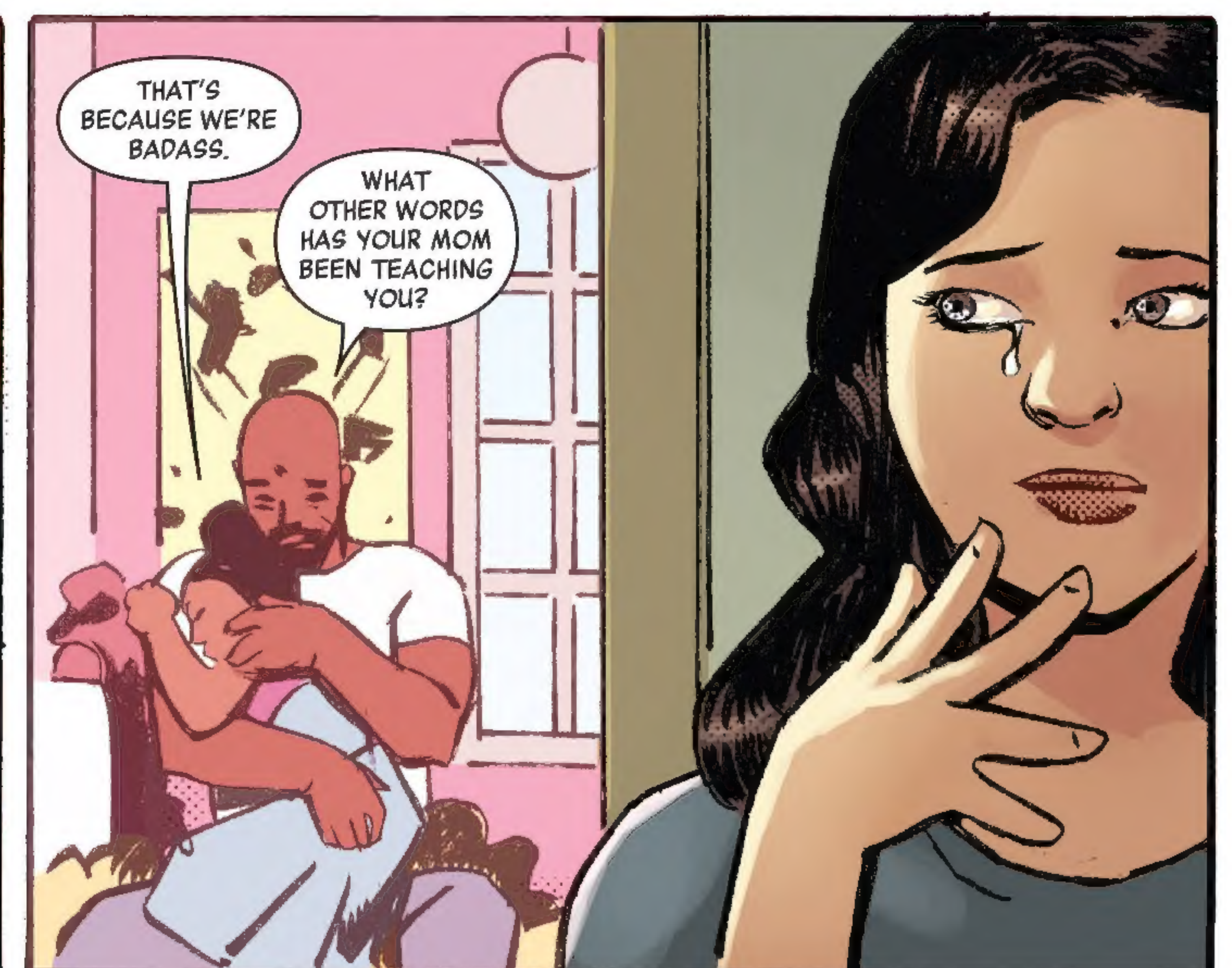
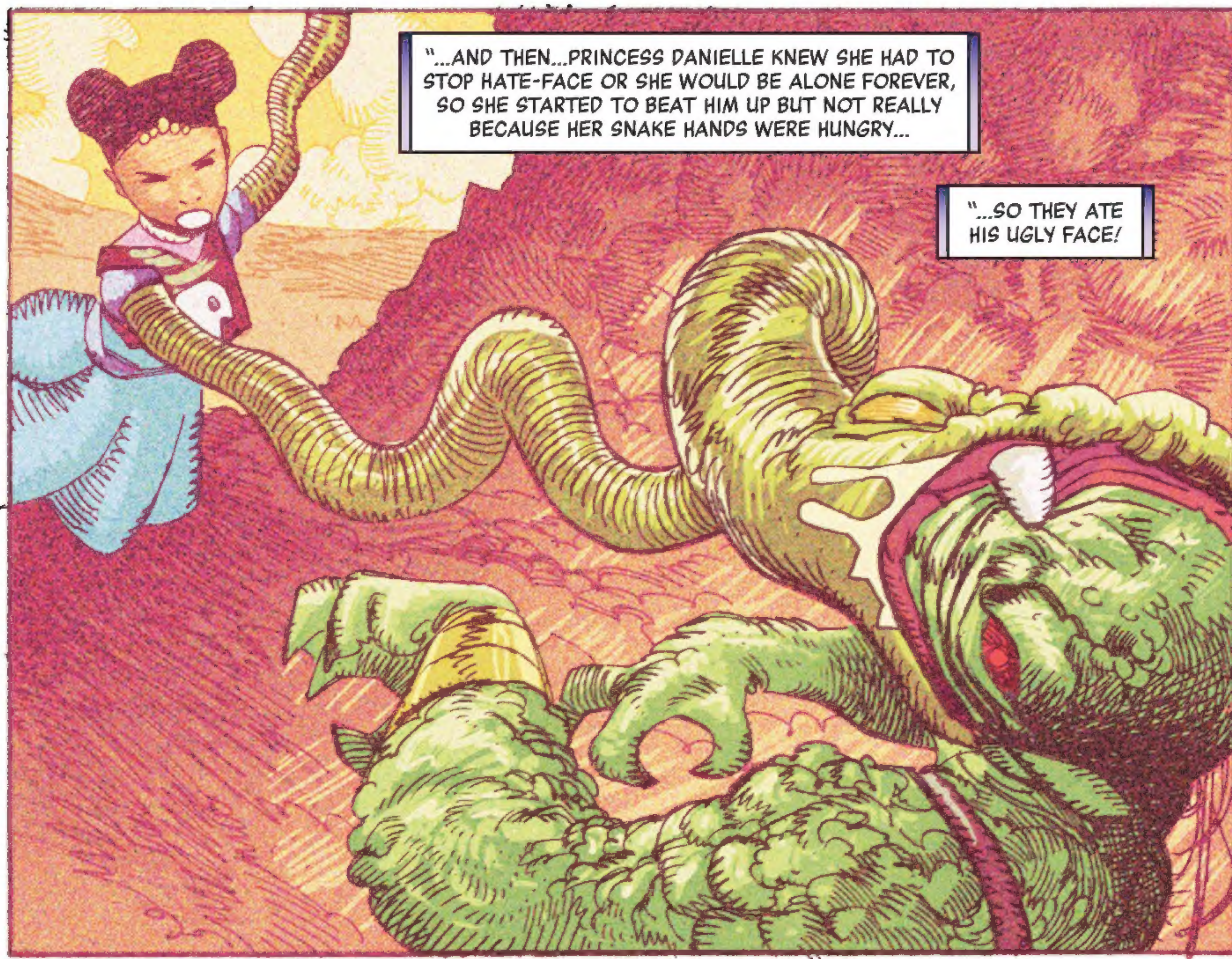


PRINCESS DANIELLE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.



SHE STARTED TO CRY, AND HATE-FACE LAUGHED BECAUSE SHE WAS CRYING...AND THEN...









...AND THEY LIVED  
HAPPILY EVER AFTER.



# POWER MAIL

Send us your letters at [mheroes@marvel.com](mailto:mheroes@marvel.com) and mark them "okay to print"!

Let me tell you about this kid. Her name is Astrid, she's four years old and she's one of the most amazing human beings I've ever met. She is smart, funny, her favorite snake is the black mamba and she loves super heroes. Ask her about any super hero, and she can tell you who they are and their origin story, but it doesn't stop there, because Astrid loves to make up her own stories. She often starts by saying, "Tell me a story," but it only takes about a minute before she takes over the narrative, bending it and shaping it into something of pure brilliance. She is what most comic-book writers start out being, and what we work so hard to continue being.

This issue of LUKE CAGE – the final issue – has been in development since I started writing POWER MAN AND IRON FIST. From the very beginning, I wanted to write an entire issue dedicated to Luke being a father spending time with his daughter Danielle. In the entire history of Luke Cage (which spans more than 40 years), there is nothing more interesting or compelling than his becoming a father. Unfortunately, for various reasons, I never got to build on the relationship between Luke and Danielle the way I wanted to, and for me, my combined run on POWER MAN AND IRON FIST and LUKE CAGE will always be less than it could have been because I never really got to explore what truly makes Luke one of the best characters in the Marvel Universe – his love and dedication to his daughter.

When word came that LUKE CAGE was ending, I knew I had to do a story revolving around Luke and Danielle. Inspired by a classic issue of UNCANNY X-MEN and the movie *The Princess Bride*, I decided to craft a simple tale of a father telling his daughter a bedtime story. It seemed easy at the time, but proved to be far more challenging than I had anticipated. The problem was that Danielle wasn't a character in the story so much as she was a prop – Luke was telling her the story, and she was sitting back and listening. It wasn't working at all. And that's where Astrid comes in.

If there is any sense of reality or authenticity to this issue, it is because it was inspired by the fine art of telling Astrid a story, her taking over the narrative, turning it into her own thing and making it so much better than when it started. What could have easily been a sad or cynical issue for me to write turned into the most fun I've had in many years, and it is all because of a four-year-old girl whose imagination burns so bright that it brings light to everyone around her.

I want to thank everyone who has supported LUKE CAGE, and give special shout-outs to my editorial team, as well as the artists who made each issue come alive. I dedicate this final issue of LUKE CAGE to my dear friend Astrid. Not only does she inspire me, she reminds me of why I love super heroes and comic books. Astrid, this one is for you. Love you, kid.

David F. Walker



